

SAU 16 Superintendent of Schools Position Announcement

New Hampshire School Administrative Unit (SAU) 16 in the seacoast region of New Hampshire invites applications for the position of Superintendent of Schools. The SAU is composed of six communities (Brentwood, East Kingston, Exeter, Kensington, Newfields and Stratham) that have a long-standing tradition of strong support for their schools. Our communities have demonstrated their support of education through readily passed school budgets and the funding of new, state-of-the-art middle and high school facilities and upgrades and additions to the seven elementary schools. Our schools have a well-deserved, state-wide reputation for academic excellence with ambitious, talented students, highly dedicated, effective teachers, hard working administrators and committed, involved parents. The communities of SAU 16 deeply value academic excellence and achievement for all students in our public schools.

Our next superintendent will be an educational leader who can work with our teachers and administrators and inspire them to engage and challenge students across the spectrum of academic learning speeds and styles. The superintendent will demonstrate a visible presence in the schools and in the community and use that presence to learn more about opportunities and challenges in each of the schools and to advocate for education within our community. Our next superintendent will be an individual who will value the expertise that our teachers and administrators bring to policy and practice within the SAU. The superintendent will be excited about helping teachers and students reach the highest levels of academic achievement and in maximizing the potential of our communities' children. The new superintendent will be a strong fiscal manager, monitoring costs and budgets to assure that the taxpayers of SAU 16 continue to receive a product that is commensurate with their continued support of education in the district.

Our schools have a reputation for excellence and success, but we are committed to continued improvement. We face many of the challenges that districts across the state and the country currently face. Our new superintendent will need to address the ongoing debate within our community about how best to approach middle-level education. At the heart of the debate is the need to keep the best social aspects of a middle school while assuring exciting and rigorous academic challenge for all students. Our new superintendent will need to provide the leadership necessary to move us forward on this important issue. A continuing challenge is the commitment to meet the needs of students who learn best in non-traditional settings. In recent years the creation and support of schools such as Great Bay e-learning Charter School, the Virtual Charter School, and the Seacoast School of Technology that offer alternatives to the traditional classroom have begun to address this concern. The new superintendent should continue to find multiple pathways to meet the learning needs of all students. One issue is balancing the need for curriculum consistency across the elementary schools and districts that feed into the middle school with the need for autonomy and independence in the six towns. The next superintendent will lead the SAU as it addresses these challenges.

The new superintendent will begin July 1, 2008.

For information about the position go to: <http://www.sau16.org/employment/superintendent.htm>